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## **SAN MANUEL AND AREA NON-PROFITS SUPPORT EXTENDS INTO THE NEW YEAR**

### ***Tribe Forges Partnerships with Non-Profits to Address Immediate and Future Needs of Region***

**San Manuel Indian Reservation (San Bernardino, Calif.) December 30, 2011** – As 2011 draws to a close, much of the Inland Empire region continues to face challenges of high unemployment and reductions in charitable giving. In response, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians has directed its support to area non-profits with targeted outreach to make positive impacts for individuals and families into the New Year.

San Manuel's 2011 outreach efforts include charitable contributions to the Family Service Association of Redlands, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and High Desert Resource Network reflect the Tribe's comprehensive, strategic approach to giving with a focus on need during the holiday season for the shelter and making forward-looking investments in the educational development of students as well as capacity for non-profits to better serve the greater community.

"At this time of year thoughts naturally turn to those in need of support," said San Manuel Chairman James Ramos. "Through recent partnerships with nonprofits and community groups, San Manuel considered both the immediate needs and the on-going challenges facing the region by contributing to programs that will make an on-going positive difference in the lives of others."

Throughout the year, some 1,800 families rely on the Family Service of Association of Redlands to provide food, clothing and housing support over extended periods. Despite a 20% reduction in state and federal funding, this 113 year old institution has continued serving the people of the San Bernardino East Valley. Aid from San Manuel will enable this social service organization to increase its capability for more effective case management that enable clients to move beyond temporary shelter into permanent housing. The \$25,000 gift which was presented to the group in September has helped numerous families find housing that will provide them stability into 2012.

“Many people hope the New Year will provide an opportunity to transition from their current circumstances to better ones,” said Cheryl Heesen, Executive Director Family Service Association of Redlands. “For our client families their transition can last well into the New Year. This partnership will help see families through the duration of the process.”

As funding for education decreases forward-thinking educational initiatives like San Bernardino County School’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program face potential shortfalls in funding. The STEM program prepares students for the demands of an economy increasingly driven by innovation and technology. With a grant of \$550,000 to the district’s Alliance for Education, San Manuel seeks to help San Bernardino County Students become proficient in subjects required by tomorrow’s employers. The Tribe and the district share as a priority the economic development of the region and San Manuel’s support will help the STEM program reach 9000 district students to train for a workforce increasingly reliant on math and science proficiency.

“This is a different world,” said David Manzano, a member of the San Manuel Business Committee and the Tribe’s Education Committee. “Today’s employers are looking for those with training and skills that will help America maintain its status as a world leader in innovation and new technology. The STEM program will help future innovators develop these skills.”

Empowering communities to develop their own capacity for social services is the mission of the High Desert Resource Network. The network aids approximately 200 nonprofit organizations through skill training, capacity development including grant writing, data sharing and technical assistance, so that resources and best practices can be identified and shared among the non-profit community. San Manuel’s gift of \$13,500 was directed to the network’s Fundraising Academy, which offered training to select non-profits at no cost to the organization. By preparing nonprofits to meet the criteria and standards set by funding agencies, support and assistance from San Manuel and the High Desert Resource Network will enable regional nonprofits to attract support from potential funders in this historically underfunded region of California. According to a 2009 report commissioned by the James Irvine Foundation and published by the University of San Francisco Institute for Nonprofit Organizational Management project, nonprofits in San Bernardino County receive only \$3 per capita in foundation funding compared to the state average of \$119.<sup>1</sup>

"This partnership with High Desert Resource Network focuses on the future of non-profits with the intent to 'teach them to fish'," said Vici Nagel, president/CEO High Desert Resource Network. "Now more than ever, with unemployment up and so many families in crisis, nonprofits need financial support, they need a fish to feed people today. But they also need training and resource development services for tomorrow. We are excited about this partnership with the tribe and know that their forward-thinking approach to funding will create a brighter future for our region's nonprofits and the thousands of families they support."

This year, the Tribe’s charitable-giving effort further defined its four program areas with the goal of building the capacity of non-profits to serve the San Bernardino and Riverside region. Through directed outreach to education, economic development, health and special projects, San Manuel strives to make a positive impact on the quality of life through its nonprofit partnerships.

**About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment. Please visit [www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov](http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov) for more information.

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